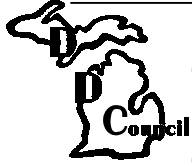


The



Monday Update

October, 2003

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Budget crunch creates Medicaid dental changes

Reductions in many things, including benefits and services for all kinds of Americans, are a sign of the times.

As the country struggles back from recession, financing benefits and services is a struggle in itself; traditional sources of income, such as taxes and fees, have been greatly reduced. Less money must cover, and be shuffled between, agencies and programs.

Here in Michigan, one important program that has been affected by the economy and state budget problems is Medicaid routine dental service for about 600,000 recipients. It has been stopped for an indefinite period. This includes people over age 21 with disabilities, low-income mothers, and people with mental illness.

It went into effect on Oct. 1. Also cut were chiropractic and podiatry services and hearing aids for adult recipients.

Although letters have been sent to Medicaid recipients telling them of the cuts, it is possible some users of the service won't know about it until the next time they make an appointment with their dentist.

Others are well aware of the cuts, such as Judi Brown of Hillman. She has long been

an advocate – Brown has three siblings with developmental disabilities for whom she cares in Hillman.

She is also a co-chair of the DD Council's Montmorency Regional Interagency Coordinating Committee (RICC) – and was determined not to take the cuts sitting down. “I decided to write a letter to the governor,” she says.

The loss of dental coverage could also mean the loss of preventative dental care. Medicaid will now only pay for emergency services, such as extractions. This doesn't make sense to Brown.

“Medicaid paid for a teeth cleaning every six months and fillings. This costs much less than what happens to teeth when this prevention is stopped, when they have to be removed.”

Brown's letter to the governor said people with disabilities “have a right to...good teeth. How can you make the decision that they do not have this right? Preventative care is essential to any quality of life. Two of Brown's siblings also require hearing aids and that service will be cut.

“Knowing the waste in many areas of the government,” Brown's letter concluded, “I'm sure that cuts could have been made in areas other than these. You would just have to look harder.”

She says alternatives to cutting these benefits include putting to work some “people on welfare” who draw similar benefits. She adds that there are likely other

areas of state government where cuts in spending could be made but are not. It is a matter of priorities.

Brown says she's hoping to hear from the governor. She adds that advocates and people with developmental disabilities should write letters to policymakers expressing concern about the budget cuts.

Former DD Council member is new Ms. Wheelchair Michigan



Monica Smith, former DD Council member and developmental disabilities activist from Battle Creek, is the new 2003 Ms. Wheelchair of Michigan.

She was picked over just one other contestant as part of bringing the annual competition back to Michigan.

Smith has been active in trying to renew the event that left the state some years ago.

As a result of her agreeing to reestablish the statewide pageant, Smith attended the national Ms. Wheelchair America Pageant in Des Moines, Iowa, this past summer to compete for the U.S. title.

She represented Michigan not only as Ms. Wheelchair Michigan, but also as a delegate to the national gathering.

With some financial help from the United Auto Workers and Wayne County Executive Robert Facano, Smith was able to attend the pageant and stake a claim for renewing the competition in Michigan.

Smith says the national program has been honoring women in wheelchairs for over 30 years. Here in Michigan, the program has been intermittent, depending on who was organizing the competition.

Smith is determined to make it work and says she needs help with the project. Wheelchair users and non-users who would like to see Ms. Wheelchair of Michigan pageant become a permanent fixture, contact Smith at 313/425-4893.

With Smith at the helm, the project has a great deal of energy behind it. As an advocate for people with disabilities, she served two years on the DD Council and worked diligently to start a transportation system in Calhoun County.

Smith is presently working on her doctorate in political science at Wayne State University in Detroit. She hopes to become a political analyst specializing in disability-related issues. Smith earned her bachelor's (liberal arts) and master's in public administration from Western Michigan University.

Voter league mini-grant targeted those potential Copper Country voters

One of the most efficient uses of DD Council grant funds may be the Regional

Interagency Coordinating Committee (RICC) mini-grant.

For relatively little money - \$8,000 or less - a year-long mini-grant can produce great results and wide-ranging effects in a community.

A prime example of this success is Access, Education and Empowerment for Voters with Disabilities. The all-volunteer project was conducted by the League of Women Voters, Copper Country (LWVCC) Houghton. It concluded last March but its successes are still being realized. The project sought to improve voter turnout, access to voting and understanding of elections procedures. People with disabilities learned the importance of registering to vote and voting rights and procedures.

Also a part of the learning process were election workers. They heard about the importance of accommodations for people with disabilities.

The league has received many positive responses to the program from not only the local community-at-large, but from RICCs statewide and League of Women Voters chapter nationwide.

In addition to helping people with disabilities to vote and learn the importance of casting a ballot, the project earned a major award – the 2002 National Organization on Disability Award – at the League of Women Voters of the United States' annual meeting.

The Copper Country RICC was also involved. Chairperson Tracy Jaehnig, Jeremy Gatta, Jackie Tahtinen and Karen Juntunen represented the RICC.

A comprehensive survey was a project cornerstone for area people with disabilities. It asked about access to voting booths and other local voting barriers and revealed many problems in the balloting system.

How was this information distributed? The project participants created an original, interactive voting game.

Basically, the game opened the door for people with disabilities to the idea of voting to express choice and opinion. Participants heard two people speak on opposing sides of a common subject, transportation services for example, and then expressed their feeling – their vote – for one or the other opinion.

Participants also were given a county map with polling places, a sample ballot and calendar emphasizing the November election day.

The game was presented at six schools in the Keweenaw Peninsula. The grant also produced an information brochure on absentee voting that had wide distribution.

Other communications tools include original radio and television public service announcements. The project was

Another highlight was a pre-election luncheon forum that featured a ballot review by election officials and a speech by a Michigan Developmental Disabilities Council member.

More than 140 people attended the forum representing four area RICCs (Copper Country, Baraga, Ontonagon and Gogebic), plus the Americans with Disabilities Act Resource Network, and Vocational Strategies.

Also attending were local candidates special education high school classes, local consumers, and the media.

The league's grant project was presented at a statewide RICC retreat, as well as the American Public Health Association's Annual Meeting in Philadelphia, PA.

The results? People with disabilities in Copper Country, up until this point largely disenfranchised, learned the routine and importance of the voting process, registered to vote, then cast their ballots in state elections.

The league continues to earn attention for their project. Congratulations on a successful project and defining the successful DD Council RICC mini-grant.

Council committee and work group meeting minutes

Here are minutes from recent meetings of the Council's committee and work groups.
The Housing Work Group meets quarterly.

Multicultural Committee

August 13, 2003

PRESENT:

Mitzi Allen Larry Betz Teresa Arini
Rick Van Horn

AGENDA:

- I. Call to Order
- II. Approval of Minutes
- III. Approval of Agenda
- IV. Introductions
- V. Old Business –
 - A. Individual work plan responsibilities
 - B. Genesee Project
- VI. New Business
 - A. Glenn Ashley presentation to Committee
 - B. Other new business
 - council brochure translations
 - Cristo Rey event
- VIII. Adjournment

I through IV.

In the absence of Chair Terry Lerma, called to order by Van Horn at 10:20. All agreed to table the approval of July meeting minutes and the August agenda until September and a larger attendance. Group welcomed back Teresa Arini to the committee meetings.

V-A-I – Work plan - The attendees discussed the work plan on the agenda. Arini was brought up to date on the topic. Key to the success of the Workplan is getting committee members to take responsibility for its various elements. The chair said at the last meeting that she wished to have people volunteer this month for the various spots needed to work the work plan. People who have attended Committee meetings these past months have said they would sign up for various elements, but have not followed through with a firm commitment.

However, each council committee and work group will be generating work plans based upon a standard grid. Council Executive Director Vendella Collins will be addressing the Multicultural Committee in the near future on the subject of the standardized work plan grid. Is it possible, in light of the possible need to change the Committee's work plan format, that a rewrite of the plan should at least be considered?

Arini pointed out that while the plan's structure may change, its key elements could likely just be plugged into the standard grid. Allen pointed out that the Committee's work plan had been presented to the council and the latter's recommendation was that there were some areas that needed work.

Betz said that also the grassroots outreach concept – Genesee Project – should be incorporated into the Committee work plan when it is revised. A number of criteria listed in the present work plan can be met by carrying out the Genesee Project.

Betz felt that one reason for a possible lack of volunteers for work plan tasks is the overall broadness of the plan itself. If objectives that needed volunteers were more concise, perhaps more Committee members would volunteer to administer them.

V-A-II – Genesee Project – Arini, having been on medical leave, asked to be brought up to date on the project. Allen replied: In order to set an example for active community outreach, the Committee would partner with various community agencies and a Regional Interagency Coordinating Committee (RIIC) in an outreach program. Betz identified Genesee County and the Flint area as being an excellent location for outreach. Reinforcing this are the data and excellent results of the Council's successful family outreach "project of national significance" in Flint. Basic objective would be to help minority people with disabilities and their families be exposed to the range of services in Genesee County and, as Betz said, "be willing to come to a government agency and tell them my business." The Committee members reviewed the concept and mechanics of the family outreach grant and its successes. Allen and Arini, who attended several of the outreach events, told how successful each was and how different in nature they were as well.

Allen said the chair of the Genesee RICC, Kathy Flowers, is enthusiastic about the outreach idea. She has provided Allen with a list of local resources from which to draw support and outreach lists. Betz also has resources he can draw upon in the Flint area.

Based on its success in Genesee County, the project could be extended to other areas of the state where there are cultural barriers and a lack of services awareness among people of diverse cultures who have

disabilities. Ideally, Arini said, is to have the Council take this project on the road, from county to county.

Another objective is to increase Committee membership in general, but also make certain that there is a fair representation of the state's different cultures in the membership. Allen said if the Committee could get but one or two new minority members, others may wish to join the group.

Betz agreed and said another goal should be to educate RICCs and have them conduct council interests and projects on a local level....thus freeing the Committee from being in two or more places at once. Allen pointed out that works both ways....minority cultures within a community can be a good source for new RICC members.

VI – A – Glenn Ashley is the Council's grants monitor. He discussed the Council's historic studies project. It was a look at the \$27 million the Council had spent over 20 years on grants. He mentioned how few grants – about a half dozen – contained multicultural elements during that time. Ashley also discussed the focus groups assembled earlier this year to review past grants and make recommendations about the direction the Council should take for future grants and the role the Committee can play in making certain the Council thinks diversity in planning for future grant activity.

Ashley then discussed the results of the multicultural focus group. He said among the group's suggestions were a council-sponsored conference on multicultural issues; long-term support to agencies who exhibit progress in achieving cultural competence; and a speakers' bureau. He strongly recommended the Committee review the focus group's suggestions. He

also said the Committee should take a look at RFPs as they are issued and discuss how it can get multicultural partnerships with eventual grantees. Partner with them during the proposal stage.

He also pointed out that requests for proposals for an \$8,000 RICC mini-grant would be issued shortly and suggested the Committee may wish to apply for that grant to fund the outreach program.

The Committee discussed with Ashley the multicultural requirements of the grant process. The addition of Ashley to the staff means there can be closer monitoring of grant activity regarding multicultural outreach. He also made suggestions regarding the Committee's ideas about an outreach project in Flint.

Committee agreed to table member Vera Graham's promotional brochure suggestions until she was present. A rough design for the Committee brochure was presented. Arini suggested that in addition to promoting the aims of the Committee, the brochure could serve as a recruiting tool for it.

On the subject of publications, Allen reported that there is a freeze on the production of the translated Council brochures. This is due to state budget concerns.

Allen mentioned the appearance of the Council's display board at the Cristo Rey Catholic Church in Lansing on Saturday, Sept. 27. The event is the church's fourth annual Hispanic Health Fair. The display board will promote the council's presence. Volunteers will be on hand to answer queries.

Meeting adjourned at 11:43 a.m.

Program Committee

August 12, 2003

Present: Don Trout (by phone), Barbara LeRoy, Theresa Arini, Danielle LaForte (guest), and staff Glenn Ashley, Ivy Bedford and Cheryl Trommater.

Summary of July meeting approved by consensus.

Grant project (Quality of Life study) briefing: Trommater reported that there has been very little progress on this project. Reporting has been late, and products have lacked substance. A warning letter has been issued, and has received some response. The project is reorganizing its administrative functions and has agreed to the deadlines set in the warning letter. Staff continues to monitor closely.

Expectations of grant projects: Aaron Sherbin had requested discussion of this issue, with special attention to how much we expect them to have worked out in advance vs. learning on grant time and money. In his absence, this discussion was deferred to a later meeting.

Status report on RFPs: Trommater reported that the RFP package that includes Evaluation of Person-Centered Planning and Self-Determination and the Employment Study is in distribution. The RICC Mini-Grant RFP is in its final stages.

2004 Committee Workplan – draft and outline issues: The revised tentative work plan and schedule was reviewed and discussed.

Education Work Group

Aug. 6, 2003

Members Present: Karen Massaro-Mundt, Bud Kraft, Gwen Pierce, Lynne Tamor, Cheryl Cormier-Kuhn, Barb Leroy, Lauri Stein, Mark McWilliams, Marta Hampel, Tracy Vincent, Vera Graham, Vendella Collins

Meeting called to order at 10:20 a.m.

Trommater motioned to approve the June 4, 2003 meeting minutes and Pierce seconded. Motion approved.

Trommater motioned to approve the July 2, 2003 meeting minutes and Stein seconded. Motion approved.

Future meeting dates of the Family Support Work Group were discussed. The Education Work Group wants to coordinate some meeting times because some of the issues overlap. It would save time for both groups to meet together. The group decided to establish its meeting schedule at the end of today's meeting.

Two articles on Special Education were distributed and briefly discussed.

Collins discussed Organizational Learning. The group completed Talents of the Team and introduced other members to the group.

Team Inventory of Skills and Networks

- Inside track on Special Education
- Legal background
- Attorney
- Persuasive
- Resourceful
- Dedicated
- Collaborators
- Problem solving skills
- Good listening skills
- Synthesizer
- Good communication skills

- Bring fresh insight and creative ideas
- Leaders
- School Board members
- Recognition
- Trusted
- Good organizational skills
- Speak out
- Doesn't give up
- Teamwork
- Writers
- Assistive technology
- Consultant
- Reliable
- Succinct
- International view
- Grant writing and reviewing
- DCH representation
- Knowledge of support systems
- Parent advocacy
- Fluent in languages

What does the inventory tell us about the team?

- Passionate
- Experience
- Personal Experience
- Goal Oriented
- Research Background
- Community Involvement
- Leadership Background
- Community Organizers
- Collaborators
- Analysts
- Visionaries – make things happen
- Professional Writers
- Good Listeners
- Motivated Individuals

How can the talent of this team be utilized in an optimal way?

- Synergy of knowledge – take to policymakers and community
- Changing educational system
- Develop policy on Universal Education
- Working to change the system
- Agreement that change is necessary

Strength and persistence in this group
Start over and create a new vision
Build on success of what group has done
Don't reinvent the wheel
Research Experience
Key is to make it happen
Leaders
International perspective

What talents, knowledge bases and qualities
are we missing as a team or need to be
developed?

Political process
School Administrator
Developing contacts
Tap into supporters
Increase collaboration
Communications between one another,
between work groups and outside
entities
Marketing strategies
Work plan/planning process
Incorporate current issues as they come
up
Full understanding of Council
Cultural diversity
People with disabilities
Students
Balance between professionals and
parents
Political experience
Advertising/marketing
Identify links – member relationships
Bridges 4 Kids
CAUSE
Legislative representatives
Networking
Arc Michigan
Michigan Association of School Boards

The next meeting is scheduled for
September 16 from 10:00 a.m. – noon. The
items on the agenda will include:

- What we've done this far.
- Where are we now?
 1. Review example of work plan
partially filled in.

Monthly meetings will be held after the
August meeting on the third Tuesday of
each month from 10:00 a.m. - noon. Those
dates are:

September 16, 2003
October 21, 2003
November 18, 2003
December 16, 2003 (Possibly)
January 20, 2004
March 16, 2004
April 20, 2004
May 18, 2004
June 15, 2004
July 20, 2004
August 17, 2004
September 21, 2004

Family Support Work Group

Members Present: Vera Graham, TJ
Graham, Malisa Pearson, Laura Mahank,
Jeannie Madsen, Lori Irish, Bud Kraft,
Kevin Ford, Theresa Arini, Lori Mavis,
Randy Krause, Kristen Columbus, Carolyn
Allston-Smith, Vendella Collins

Present by Phone: Aaron Sherbin

Welcome and introductions were done.

Theresa motioned to approve the June 18'
2003 minutes. Randy seconded. Motioned
approved.

In the past the FSWG group has:

- Reviewed the mission
- Developed 6 top themes

- Developed strategies and conditions for success

It was discussed that the FSWG will be transitioning from planning to doing.

The group reviewed the telephone call summaries of the other four top themes. Additional comments were made on the Parent-to-Parent Supports theme. They include:

- the Family Support Network(FSN) now has a database of over 600 families.
- Early-On does a 2-year calendar
- Market the availability of the FSN – market through schools
- Bring in adult person with a disability to speak to the FSN

Explanation of Center for Independent Living (CIL) function was discussed.

Respite was discussed. There are more options statewide and there is more funding available.

Michigan will be submitting for a \$100,000 from the ADD. Grants are expected to be awarded to 18 locations.

This would be a planning grant. The FSWG will be asked to be a member of the advisory council if the grant is awarded to Michigan. It must start in our empowerment zone. If the grant is accepted, we will ask Developmental Disabilities Institute (DDI) come in to speak to the FSWG.

It was discussed to keep connecting and updating with other council work groups.

Goal clarification was discussed. Now the group needs to prioritize and move to the commitment phase through the subcommittee teams.

Discussion took place on having Kraft bring the membership list of the FSWG to the next meeting to discuss recruitment and networking.

Priorities were discussed:

- Collaborate with FIA, schools, hospitals and various programs to get information out
- Share resources (where to go)
- Increase parent-to-parent connections – contact statewide coordinators.
- Need website and listserv(s) of different groups, parents, etc.

Possible Sub-committee members and tasks were discussed:

- Agency Collaboration (Carolyn Allston-Smith, Jeannie Madsen, Melisa Pearson)
- Information provided – Toolkit
- Sharing resources/where to place information
- Parent to Parent Connections (Randy Krause, Kristen Columbus, Aaron Sherbin)
- Resource duplication, ID with resource organizations
- Website and Listserv Developed (Randy Krause)
- Different groups, parents
- Policy Development (Theresa Arini, Lauri Irish, Vera Graham)
- Educate self on the process – can be a more effective advocate/level of care (position papers)
- Create documents to educate others (FSWG Tri-fold) around advocacy issues
- FSWG link with other groups of the DD Council

Goals of the Sub-committees include:

- Plan it out
- Get it developed

- Make it user friendly
- Test it out
- Update it

It was discussed that the chairs can recruit other resources (people) who don't need to become FSWG members.

Bud will set up a first meeting of each of the 4 subcommittees before the next FSWG meeting. Each subcommittee should develop 1 or 2 proposed realistic outcomes for the next year for the next meeting.

Next meeting: September 17th from 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. at the Arc Michigan Office located at 1325 S. Washington Avenue, Lansing, MI.

Public Policy Committee

Aug. 12, 2003

Attending:

Diane Kempen, Bud Beebe, Rick Van Horn, Ellen Weaver, Lisa Knapp, Robyn Saylor, Bud Kraft, Brian Whaley, Terry Hunt, Tony Wong, Pamela Hall, Andre Robinson, Jane Spitzley, Elmer Cerano, Tandy Bidinger, Vendella Collins, Stu Lindsay

Agenda:

1. Welcome and Introductions
2. Approval of minutes from 7/8/2003 meeting
3. Guest Speaker Stu Lindsay of M.D.O.T.: Transportation Updates
4. Medicaid
 - Buy-In
 - Self-Determination Policy
5. Education Legislative Updates: IDEA, Council Policy on Universal Education
6. Olmstead Issues
7. Mental Health Crisis

8. Federal Court Appointment News and Possible Reform

9. Organizational Learning Introduction: Vendella Collins

10. Recognition of past chair of PPC: Duncan Wyeth

11. Other

Cerano was acting as chair for this meeting. Welcome and introductions were done.

Saylor motioned to approve the minutes from the previous meeting. Bud Beebe seconded. Motion approved.

Transportation Updates

Guest Speaker, Lindsay from M.D.O.T., discussed transportation in Michigan. The demographics are changing as people with disabilities will be using public transportation.

M.D.O.T. created a Specialized Services Team, which focused on people with disabilities and elderly persons, but has now expanded the scope. The team's goals include increase funding, improve transportation, and increase information systems.

Another goal of MDOT's Specialized Services Team is to increase LAC activity through RICCs, CILs, etc. The Local Transit Board is another avenue for consumer input. LACs were discussed. A minimum of 3 people, at least 50% of them are from organizations who represent elderly persons and people with disabilities. The question was raised: Should LAC have a larger role? Legislation is currently being discussed.

Cerano commented that as society has changed, people need to get around within the county and get to other counties. Cerano also stated that to address the concerns that

people with disabilities cause scheduling delays because of the time that it takes to load and unload the wheelchairs. The MDOT should consider making bus stops accessible rather than the buses. This would allow people with disabilities to get on and off the buses with everybody else.

Lindsay invited Kempen to give an update on the Transportation Work Group. The Transportation Work Group and some RICCs are working on LAC coordination.

The transportation budget was discussed. Funds were in jeopardy, but due to public input the voices were heard and the M.D.O.T. funds have been maintained.

Robyn Saylor expressed her concern about para-transit busses not having a quick enough response time. They need more flexibility. As a consumer, she felt she was not listened to so she stopped going to the LAC meetings.

Kempen motioned to write a letter to Governor Granholm regarding her upcoming U.P. visits. Beebe seconded. Motion approved.

The Committee agreed that they may not have authority to write a letter to the Governor on behalf of the DD Council, so they asked staff to do appropriate follow up.

Medicaid Buy-In & Self-Determination Policy

Wong briefly updated the group about the Freedom to Work Act (Medicaid Buy-In). The program is required to be up and running by January 1, 2004.

The Self-Determination Policy was discussed. Some CMHs use these kinds of policies to reduce/refuse services. The

problem is that some CMHs will do self-determination “right” and some won’t.

It is important that consumers should have a fair choice and the ability to change their minds.

Education Legislative Updates

Discussion took place on IDEA. The current special education system is segregated. By renewing IDEA, we keep education segregated.

Olmstead Issues

Olmstead issues were discussed regarding the MI Choice Waiver. Elmer stated that the Governor reopened the program, but there will be a problem in the second year. The program will have less people due to the attrition rate. There is still no Olmstead Task Force. Negotiations are still going on, regarding the lawsuit.

S.E.I.U.’s strategy was discussed regarding direct care workers. We need to make sure people with developmental disabilities are included. There may be cuts to other programs to increase salary wages. There is expected to be a shortage of direct care workers as the baby boomers age.

Mental Health Task Force

Cerano discussed the Governor’s proposed Mental Health Commission to study the “crisis in mental health.” He had written to the Governor suggesting that she consider using the DD Council and the Advisory Council on Mental Illness rather than creating a new Commission.

Cerano also reported on 114 deaths that have occurred in Wayne County over the past year and a half among mental health

consumers. MPAS asked to review the records and was denied the P & A access authority by Detroit-Wayne Community Mental Health Agency. MPAS filed suit in Federal court in mid-July to challenge the Detroit-Wayne action.

Organizational Learning

Collins introduced Organizational Learning. The Council's work is done through work groups and committees.

Each work group will establish work plans with goals and objectives and will collaborate with other work groups and committees so the full Council will know what groups are doing. This will build the capacity of council and permit council members to engage with policy makers.

Organizational Learning will help the group to be more effective. Some questions for the Public Policy Committee: Do we know who is here and what their talents are? Does the council know what the Public Policy Committee does? Do we actually cause change? It is important to utilize the talents and skills of all committee members.

The organizational learning process will help the Public Policy Committee connect with other groups (RICCs, other work groups, etc).

Grants are also important and the Public Policy Committee should keep them in mind.

Organizational Learning usually takes 3 meetings: Introduction, Exercise, Strategies, Work Plan –goals and objectives for the next 12 months, but can be done in 2-4 sessions. Planning must be done annually, with modifications as needed.

It is important to celebrate the group's accomplishments.

Other

A certificate of recognition was reviewed and will be given to Duncan Wyeth, past chair of the Public Policy Committee.

Plans are underway for the Council's Annual Legislative Reception, which will be Feb. 10, 2004, at the Radisson Hotel in Lansing.

Meeting adjourned.

Transportation Work Group

Aug. 14, 2003

Members Present: Margaret Heiser, Kevin Wisselink, Diane Kempen, Bud Beebe, Stu Lindsay, Doug Sprybrook, Tandy Bidinger.

Present by Teleconference:

Mick Sheridan, Janel LaPlante, Terry Nankervis, Ron Welsh, Tonee Therrian, Howard Schweppe, Janice Peterson.

1. Welcome by Chairperson Kempen, followed by introductions by the group members.

2. Minutes from the June 12, 2003 meeting were approved. Wisselink made a motion to accept the minutes as written, and Lindsay seconded the motion.

3. A legislative and Michigan budget update was provided. The MDOT Transportation budget for next year is essentially the same as this year's. There may be a bit more money for buses. The Specialized Services program was not cut. Advocacy efforts were helpful in preventing cuts in these areas. *It is*

very important that advocacy efforts continue. Senate Bill 399 and the recently settled California “sidewalk” accessibility case were discussed. DARTA is working on the coordination of Detroit area public transit, and is moving ahead with their plans.

4. Grassroots Advocacy: concerns about the lack of accessible transportation for the upcoming Governor’s visits to the U.P., and the Council’s letter written to the Governor were reviewed. The TWG approved of the letter. It will be shared with RICC members. Howard Schweppe described a booklet he wrote, “The Little Red Book of Guerrilla Tactics for Transit Dependent Individuals”. Schweppe agreed to share it with the TWG. Letter writing efforts and other contact with legislators appear to have had an impact on the MI budget process. However, in the future it was requested that TWG members send copies of any letters to staff (Bidinger or Tracy Vincent), so that we can better track our efforts.

5. Land Use Leadership Council has concluded work, and will be releasing their written reports very soon. The media has been reporting on their findings, and reportedly the issue of the need for increased public transportation that is accessible to people with disabilities has been included. This is another example of the effectiveness of organized advocacy efforts by the disability community!

6. We reviewed our calendar of TWG meetings for the upcoming fiscal year.

7. Council Executive Director Vendella Collins gave an introduction to Organizational Learning. This process will be used by the TWG to formulate their new work plan. An example of a program that the TWG could

support/endorse is the Travel Voucher as described by Mick Sheridan.

8. Current Work Plan: we did not have time to complete this agenda item, and decided that as “homework” group members should review the work plan and be prepared to discuss it at the next meeting. We need to determine which action items have been completed.

9. Other: upcoming conference and training opportunities include the MRC Conference in Traverse City November 3-5, which will feature several presentations on transportation for people with disabilities. A Michigan Transit Conference is set for October 28 and 29 in Grand Rapids. The MDOT Transportation Summit will be held in Lansing December 3-4. TWG members were encouraged to attend these events.

Health Issues Work Group

Aug. 26, 2003

Members Present: Yvonne Fleener, chair, Paul Shaheen, Lori Manis, Theresa Arini, RoAnne Chaney, Kathleen Reynolds
Staff: Terry Hunt, Glenn Ashley

Fleener welcomed members and asked for a motion regarding previous meeting minutes. Motion (RoAnne Chaney/Paul Shaheen): Approve the May, June, July and August meeting minutes as distributed. Motion passed unanimously.

Members decided to maintain the current schedule of meeting the fourth Tuesday, 1:30-3:30 p.m. at the council office.

Reynolds reported that she decided to make these meetings a priority after reviewing

minutes and noting the work group's direction and priorities.

Ashley reported that the DCH Barrier Busters have expressed in the care coordination model for potential application in other DCH programs. Shaheen suggested talking with the Governor's office to promote this model.

Chaney presented regarding a model for community coordinated care.

Members discussed the focus/tools DCH currently uses when monitoring local CMHSPs. DCH does not attempt, at this time, to assure that CMHs actually link people with services outside the CMH system.

Members discussed potential next steps to maintain momentum and suggested concept papers to identify care coordination issues, barriers and options. Chaney offered to develop a concept paper on care coordination in long term care. Reynolds offered to develop a concept paper on care coordination in mental health. We will discuss these papers at our next meeting.

Meeting adjourned.